

Overseas Press • Club Bulletin

VOL. 43, NO. 3
MARCH 1988

310 Madison Avenue
Suite 2116
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 983-4655

Up-and-Coming

Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 p.m.—Book Night. OPCer **Whitman Bassow**, former Moscow Bureau Chief for *Newsweek*, on his new book, *The Moscow Correspondents*. Bogert Room.

Tuesday, April 19—OPC ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, Grand Hyatt Hotel. Cocktail reception, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7:00 p.m. Members and one guest, \$75; all others, \$150.

Friday, April 29, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.—“Jazz Trios in Contrast” at the OPC, featuring the Doc Cheatham Trio with Chuck Folds on piano and Jackie Williams on drums; and the Bill Mays Trio with Victor Lewis on drums and Harvey Swartz on bass. Rumford Hall. \$5 admission for all. *No reservations for this event*; seating on first-come, first-served basis.

Members, free; guests, \$5. Cash bar. Reservations are requested for the above through Mary Novick at the Club, 212-983-4655.

SAVE THE DATE!

Yuri V. Dubinin, the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, will be the guest speaker at the **OPC Annual Awards Dinner on April 19th** at the Grand Hyatt. Details to follow next month.

BONUS FOR OPCers ENROUTE TO LONDON

According to the Chemists' Club January Bulletin, “All Chemists' Club members and their affiliates in good standing may enjoy hotel and restaurant privileges” at the Sloane Club in the fashionable Knightsbridge section of London. If you're an OPCer whose dues are paid in full, this means that you can take advantage of the reciprocity arrangement between the clubs. To make reservations, contact Charles Dorn or Mrs. Billingsley at the Chemists' Club as far in advance as possible at 212-532-7649.

Robert Jay Misch Holds Court at Annual Wine-Tasting OPCers Sample Great Wines of France— Australia, Too

In the elegant confines of the Manhattan townhouse of Frederick Wildman and Sons Ltd., OPCers were confronted with an Australian interloper among the great wines of France!

The scene was **Robert Jay Misch's** annual wine-tasting, conducted with his usual aplomb for his fellow OPCers and their guests on February 10. About 50 people attended the event and bore witness to Misch's expert testimony.

“Australian wines are the latest noise on the horizon and they're really very good,” said Misch, adding that the 1987 Penfolds Chardonnay from Australia was included in the tasting at the last minute on his suggestion.

“Don't get hung up on one wine that you like and miss out on the others,” Misch bade his fellow tasters. “Have some fun!”

The group took the advice of the OPC's resident wine expert extraordinaire to heart and questioned Misch about Montana wines (“Quite nice”); a Hawaiian wine (“My heavens!”); Argentine wines (“I know them well”); and Beaujolais (“You either like it or you think it's perfectly awful!”).

Janet Misch, introduced to the group by her husband as “a dish of Misch,” recalled a favorite story that Misch told his wine class at New York University of how Comte Alexandre Lur de Saluces journeyed to Virginia to search out a treatise written by Thomas Jefferson on the great Chateau d'Yquem from the vineyard of the Count's great-grandfather.

Connoisseur and raconteur Misch said the OPC tasting was held at the townhouse on East 69th Street on the invitation of Scott Gerber, the General Manager of Wildman.

“It was an offer I couldn't resist,” Misch said, in part because of his fond recollections of the importing house of Wildman during the final days of prohibition.

Misch was in advertising at the time and initiated the first U.S. ship ad for Cutty Sark, which Wildman then was importing.

Evolving from that association was a dinner at The Plaza Hotel for 300, marking the end of prohibition and resulting



Robert Jay Misch

Stefan L. Adler

in the founding of the first U.S. chapter of the International Wine and Food Association. Henry Taft, attorney, jurist and gourmet, became president; Misch, secretary.

Misch is known internationally as one of the nation's leading writers, lecturers and authorities on wine, food, spirits and entertaining. In addition to his books, which include *Famous Recipes*, *Foreign Dining Dictionary* and the *Quick Guide to the Wines of All the Americas*, Misch gives seminars and lectures at college and university business schools to instruct students in the selection of appropriate wines and spirits when entertaining clients.

see Page 3

Who's doing what, when, where and, if there's space, why

DOWNHOLDERS UPDATE: H.L. Stevenson, Fred Ferguson, Norman Schorr, Al Kaff and Whitman Bassow were among the more than 300 "Downholders" who attended last November's Friday the 13th reunion for former UPI employees. Speakers at the meeting, which took place at the 24 Fifth Avenue in Greenwich Village, included Ronald E. Cohen, former m.e. of United Press International, and CBS' Walter Cronkite, onetime wire filer in Kansas City. The committee that organized the reunion now wants to expand its list of 1300 and compile a Downhold Club Directory. Downholders who did not receive information about the reunion can be added to the list by writing: Fred Ferguson, D-A-Y, 40 West 57 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.

* * *

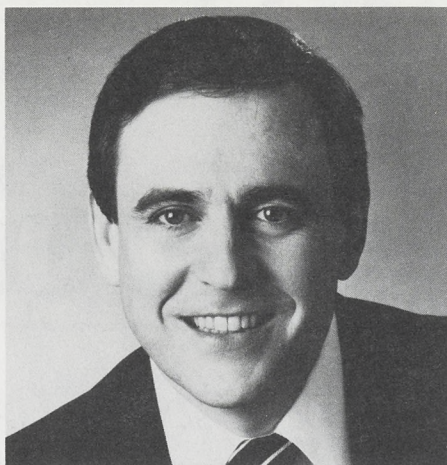
YOU HEARD IT FROM HOWARD: OPCer **Howard Penn Hudson** warns us in the preface of *Hudson's Washington News Media Contacts Directory*, of which he is editor-publisher: "The Washington press corps is a group of elite, knowledgeable men and women who do not suffer fools gladly. They welcome information in their areas of interest, but they resent irrelevant [press] releases perhaps even more strenuously than



Howard Penn Hudson

editors elsewhere. We urge you, therefore, never to use the Directory as a general mailing list. Be selective."

Indicative of the reputation of *Hudson's Directory*, the 1985 edition was placed in the 50-year time capsule of the new cornerstone of the National Press Building, as the comprehensive listing of the Washington press corps. Copies are \$99, including quarterly revisions, from *Hudson's Washington News Media Contacts Directory*, P.O. Box 311, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572; 914-876-2081.



Walter Anderson, editor of *Parade* Magazine, receives the "Tree of Life Award" from the Jewish National Fund on March 2 at a dinner at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York. The prestigious award is for "outstanding community involvement, humanitarian and professional leadership, and dedication to the cause of American-Israeli friendship." In recognition of the honor, the Fund will establish a "Walter Anderson Afforestation Project" in the American Independence Park near Jerusalem. Elie Wiesel, writer, lecturer and Nobel Prize recipient, will present the JNF award to Anderson, who has been editor of *Parade*, the country's largest circulation magazine, since 1980. A former award-winning investigative reporter, Anderson serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mercy College and is a director of the New York Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and the National Dropout Fund.

* * *

WHO SAYS ELIZABETH CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL? When the state highway officials declared their intention to tear down Ferndale, Calif.'s historic 76-year-old bridge, the folk of this frozen-in-time community rose to the defense of "Fernbridge," as the structure came to be known. So, too, did **Elizabeth McHarry**, editor and publisher of the weekly *Ferndale Enterprise*. In what turned out to be an almost two-year battle with officials from the California Department of Transportation, the pages of McHarry's paper were filled with stories, photos of the bridge and letters from angry residents. At one point, McHarry obtained—and published—a confidential Department memo that took personal shots at her. As a result of the outcry by the public—and the press—the state bureaucrats suspended plans to demolish the bridge. Instead, they will make the necessary repairs. "When I bought the *Ferndale Enterprise*, I thought I could walk softly into the sunset," Elizabeth McHarry wrote us. "Little did I dream of 'leading the charge!'"

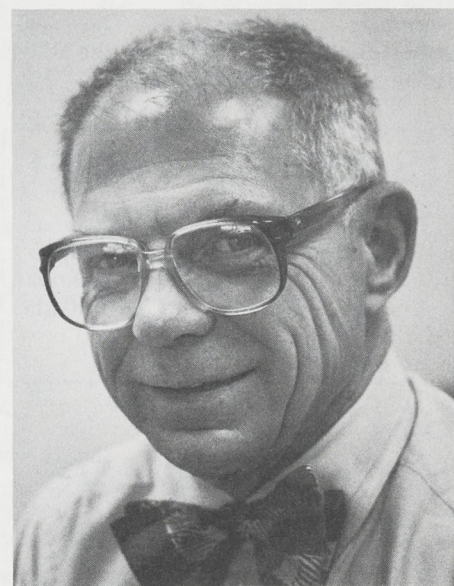
GREAT SCOT! **Duncan MacDonald**, who is Public Relations and Marketing Director for the Martha's Vineyard National Bank, continues to enjoy her involvement with Scottish affairs. She is secretary of the Scottish Society of Martha's Vineyard and last month was elected secretary of the Caledonian Foundation, Inc., a non-profit umbrella group which supports Scottish Opera and the Theatre Royal in Glasgow, Balnain House in Inverness, as well as the Scottish harp, fiddle, pipes and drums.

* * *

THEY WENT TO THE ORACLE: Wanting solid advice on how to get into public relations, editors of the alumni magazine of the University of Wisconsin at Madison School of Journalism asked member **Elmer M. Borsuk**, '37. In essence, his answer, which appeared in a recent edition, was that he simply had needed a job!

"It was at the height of the Depression," Borsuk wrote. "I turned to the WPA... persuaded its Wisconsin officials to hire me to do a radio interview program that called for public support of the state-wide recreation program." One of his first guests was Frank Lloyd Wright. Borsuk now is public relations director for Citizens' Committee for Children.

* * *



Claude Levett

Al Kaff

SPREADING THE GOOD WORD: OPCer **Al Kaff**, former war correspondent and now News Service Editor at Cornell University, wrote graphic accounts of the stirring commemoration, last October, to honor our fallen war correspondents for the *Korea Herald* and *The Correspondent*, publication of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong (of which Al is past president).

Robert Misch from Page 1

France has honored Misch with her medal of the "Comite National Des Vins de France" and has conferred on him



Scott Gerber of Wildman, Bob Misch and OPC President Herb Kupferberg share a toast (top) while members of the OPC and their guests, who numbered about 50, snack on the cheese and crackers provided by the Club.



Photos by Stefan L. Adler

the high honor of "officier" in "L'Ordre due Merite Agricole." He is a charter member of the Wine & Food Society and a Commandeur in the prestigious Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin.

Eight wines were sampled during the evening, including 1985 Depagneux Moulin-A-Vent, 1985 Alsace Cordon Pinot Blanc and 1985 Moreau Char-donnay.

"Bourgeois," declared Misch, of a 1983 Curlier Chateau Cissac, \$16, but added, "It's really very good. It's just not a 'gran vin.'"

"Modified baloney" was his response to the contention that a red wine must be uncorked two to three hours in advance, while a white need only be uncorked just before use.

Then he reminded the group that, "each Frenchman drinks the equivalent of 26 gallons of wine a year."

The pièce de résistance of the evening was NV Pol Roger Brut, a champagne at \$23.75, which arrived with a real bang: One of the corks popped on its own with such vigor, everybody ducked.

LETTERS

Kuhn Says Thanks

To the President, Officers and Board of Directors:

It is with heartfelt thanks that I write to you to tell you how much I appreciated your thoughtfulness and the lovely expression of our friendship in the flowers you sent me for my birthday, a memorable 90. I don't feel it since I am in excellent health.

It was a memorable day, made more so by the kindness and love of so many good friends, which includes all of you.

It's a long time since 1939 when we founded the OPC in the Algonquin Hotel on Palm Sunday morning at a breakfast given us by Frank Case, whose memory is fresh as ever with me.

It's been a good time, and we'll go many more years, I know.

Again, deep appreciation,
Irene Corbally Kuhn



Virginia Sherwood

Irene Corbally Kuhn, speaking at the War Correspondents' Memorial Service at the Sheraton Centre last October.

Dear Editor:

Your "Calling All Unipressers" to colors in last fall's *Bulletin* (for the reunion dinner for former employees of UPI) triggered off my own memories of "downhold."

This was not a UPI cable-ese invention. All wire-service slaves were called to the mast with "downhold" expense memos, myself included at INS.

But the greatest downhold story was traded among the story-swapping bar regulars at our late lamented 40th Street headquarters. When Hal Boyle, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter on AP, was covering the Korean War for them, he received the following cable from his superior in New York: "Downhold dispatches. Cable costs excessive Confirm." Boyle's terse reply was "Upstick job asswise."

Sol Zatt
New York City

(Editor's note: See "Who's doing what..." page 2 for more about the Downholders.)

HAIL TO OUR CHIEF!

If you missed the January 9th issue of Editor & Publisher you didn't see OPC President **Herbert Kupferberg's** response to "America's Press Clubs—A Vanishing Breed?" (Editor & Publisher, Dec. 12, 1987). We'd welcome your reaction for a later issue.—EDITOR

As president of the Overseas Press Club of America, I was naturally interested in your article "America's Press Clubs—A Vanishing Breed?" in your Shop Talk at Thirty in the issue of Dec. 12, 1987.

I regret that your correspondent did not see fit to talk to me about the subject since the OPC is cited several times in the article.

It is true that many press clubs are currently facing difficult times. However, I question whether this situation is confined to press clubs rather than being endemic to clubs in general.

I know that in New York all sorts of clubs have been grappling with financial problems for a decade and more. University clubs in particular, with the exception of a handful, have been forced to sell buildings, merge, occupy temporary quarters, go out of business.

The reasons are varied: members increasingly live in the suburbs; fewer and fewer people spend evenings in town; bar drinking—aside from singles bars—is on the decline; the old school tie is looser than it used to be. Press clubs aren't the only kind that are finding fewer and fewer "clubbable" people, to use Dr. Johnson's adjective.

Yet I'm convinced that press clubs can meet the challenge of attracting, holding and stimulating members even as times change. Certainly we are endeavoring to do so at the Overseas Press Club, with a regular list of luncheon and evening programs at our New York headquarters; with our activities and interventions on behalf of press freedom throughout the world; and with special events such as the Vietnam Correspondents Reunion of 1986, which attracted 400 former correspondents throughout the world, not to mention such membership services as our monthly news bulletin, our directory, and the availability of medical benefits.

We also provide excellent lunch, dinner and bar services, as well as reasonably priced hotel rooms, through our 10-year-long affiliation with the Chemists' Club. I was uncomfortable to read your correspondent's allusion to "a bunch of chemists." Actually the Chemists' Club, which recently combined with the Mining Club—another merger!—is a distinguished organization and its clubhouse (which is fully available to us) at 52 East

see next Page

Will Sparks Dies

Will R. Sparks, a longtime OPC member, a speech writer for President Lyndon B. Johnson and a retired director of public affairs for Citicorp, died of a brain tumor in December. He was 63 years old and lived in Brooklyn.

Sparks was a writer, director and producer for the television series *Wide, Wide World* in the 1950s.



In 1964, he became a speech writer for Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and later took the White House position. Returning to private industry, he wrote speeches for Harold S. Geneen, then the chairman of ITT, and Walter B. Wriston, the Citicorp chairman, before becoming vice president for public affairs at Citicorp in 1980.

A native of Chicago, Sparks graduated from the University of Chicago. He produced several films for the U.S. Army, including some during the Vietnam War. He also received the Army's Distinguished Service Award.

After leaving the White House, Sparks wrote *Who Talked to the President Last?* He was an editor on Great Books of the Western World and wrote for *Life*, *Look*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

He is survived by his wife, the former Zona Kingery; two sons, Guy, of Grant's Pass, Ore., and Robert, of Ithaca, N.Y., and a daughter, Johanna, of New York

On Display: Alfredo Cedeño

The photographs of Alfredo Cedeño, a Venezuelan photographer, will be on display at the OPC through March.

Cedeño's aim is to chronicle and celebrate the spirit of his fellow South Americans by capturing the land, the people, "the dance." To that end, in addition to his photography, Cedeño also is a writer, a stage director and producer and a conductor.

A stringer for Agence France-Presse, Cedeño is based in Caracas.

Alicia Patterson Papers Sought

In connection with *Newsday's* 50th anniversary in 1990, two *Newsday* staffers, Bob Keeler and Kathy Geiger, are doing extensive research for a book on the newspaper's history.

Newsday was founded in 1940 by



Alicia Patterson at her desk in the Hempstead, Long Island offices of Newsday, Sept. 21, 1942.

Photo courtesy of Newsday

Harry F. Guggenheim and Alicia Patterson. In addition to establishing *Newsday*, Harry Guggenheim made major contributions to the development of American aviation in the years after World War I, served as ambassador to Cuba under President Herbert Hoover, established the successful Cain Hoy racing stables and supervised the establishment and development of New York's Guggenheim Museum. His wife, Alicia Patterson, was the daughter of Capt. Joseph Medill Patterson, founder of the New York *Daily News*. For almost a quarter of a century, from 1940 until her death in 1963, she was the guiding force behind *Newsday's* growth from a tiny tabloid to a significant journalistic force.

In researching their history of that growth, Keeler and Geiger have already acquired from the Library of Congress thousands of pages of papers left by Harry Guggenheim. But they have had less success in acquiring papers, such as letters and memoranda, of Alicia Patterson. They would appreciate hearing from anyone who has acquired Alicia Patterson papers. Write to: Robert F. Keeler, *Newsday*, 235 Pinelawn Road, Melville, N.Y. 11747.

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

The Overseas Press Club Bulletin (ISSN-0738-7202) is published monthly, except August, for \$24 per year to members, included in dues, by the Overseas Press Club of America, New York, N.Y. 10017. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

Fran Carpentier, Editor; Bob Dunphy, Fred Ferguson, Ralph Gardner, Associate Editors.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Overseas Press Club Bulletin, 310 Madison Avenue, Suite 2116, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Kupferberg

from Page 3

41st Street, is comfortable, well-situated and thoroughly suited to our needs.

I for one would like to see greater support for our endeavors from the industry—press, broadcast, public relations and corporate—since I believe the existence of clubs such as ours heightens the professionalism as well as the companionship of all who work in communications. As we near our 50th anniversary, the Overseas Press Club is still very much alive and an integral part of the journalistic scene in New York and internationally.

Herbert Kupferberg

(Reprinted by permission of Editor & Publisher, January 9, 1988.)

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
310 Madison Avenue
Suite 2116
New York, N.Y. 10017

Second Class
Postage
PAID
at NY, NY